



DARK NIGHTS

3

DEATH



**Scott
Snyder**

**Greg
Capullo**

**Jonathan
Glapion**

**FCO
Plascencia**

Capullo

FCO

Glapion



DARK NIGHTS

3

DEFEAT

ANDY
HUBERT
BA

**Scott
Snyder**
**Greg
Capullo**
**Jonathan
Glapion**
**FCO
Plascencia**

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JIM LEE
WILLIAMSON
SIMPSON



DARK NIGHTS

3

METAL



**Scott
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**Greg
Capullo**
Jonathan
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rco
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JR '17
WHITE

SMALLVILLE, KANSAS.

CHILDHOOD HOME OF...



ALL
RIGHT, YOU
PHILISTINES, IN
THREE, TWO,
ONE...

...ROCK.

NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA



BATMAN!

I ACTUALLY THINK THIS
BAND HAS A BRIGHT
FUTURE.

IT'S A THREE-
CHORD SONG, BRUCE.
SUPERMAN SONGS, HOW-
EVER...YOU HAVE TO
BUILD UP TO THEM.



THERE'S MUCH MORE
COMPLEXITY TO--

BOYS, BOYS.
IT'S A PARTY.
ARTHUR, VIC AND
BARRY WILL BE
HERE SOON.

SORRY.



THE CROWD
ROARRRS!
RAAAGGH!

LISTEN, IN
ALL SINCERITY.
I WANT TO
SAY THANK
YOU.

THE WAR WE
JUST FOUGHT, IT
BROUGHT MY **WORST**
FEARS TO LIFE, AND YOU
ALL...WHEN I COULDN'T
SEE PAST THEM...
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY
IS...I JUST WANT
YOU TO KNOW--

GREAT HERA,
THIS IS PAINFUL
TO WATCH.



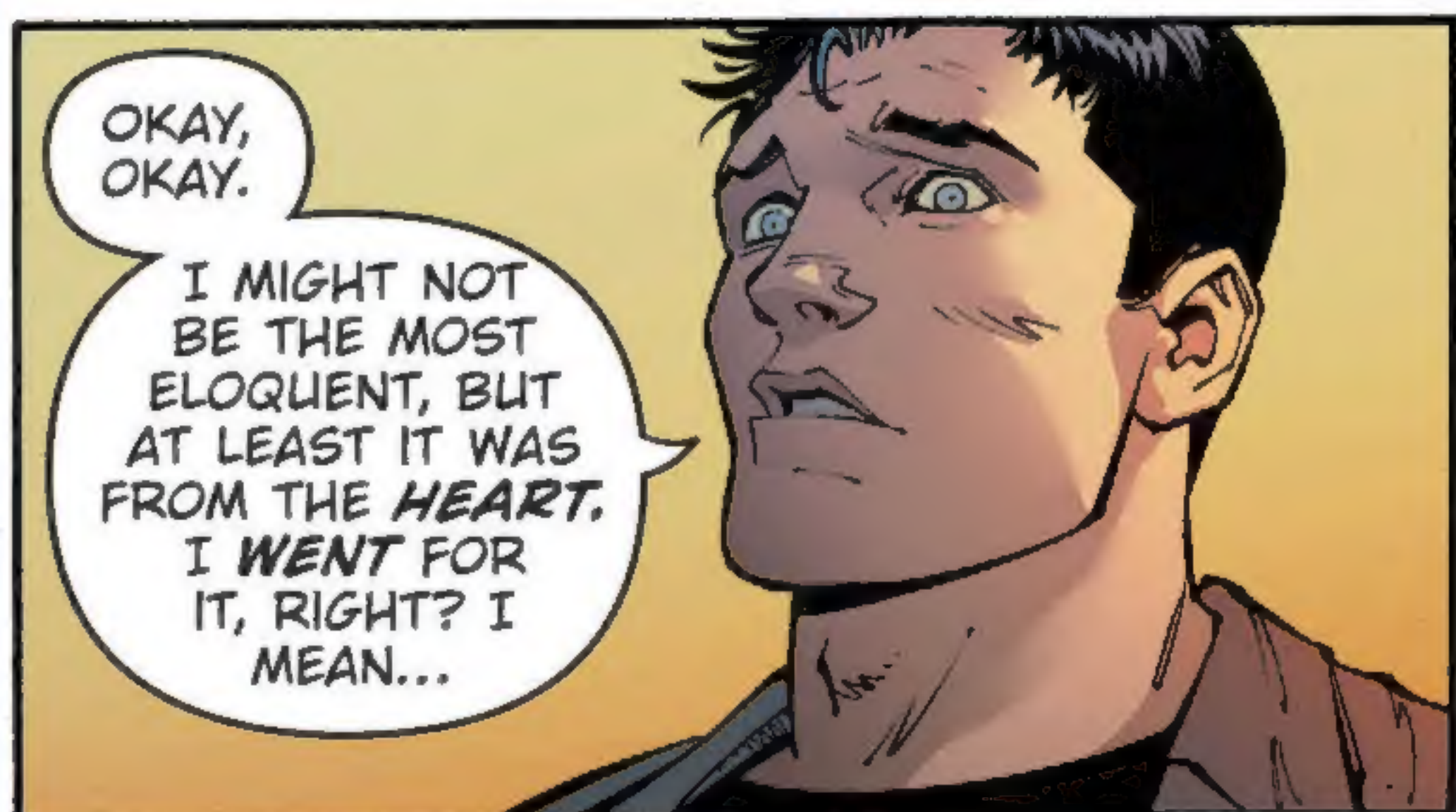
BRUCE, WE GET IT.
AND WE LOVE YOU.
BUT YOU NEED A
BETTER WRITER
FOR NON-DARK,
NON-BROODING
MOMENTS.
LOIS?

NOOOO WAY.
I'M OFF THE
CLOCK, DI. I AM
HERE SOLELY...
TO RAWK!



OKAY,
OKAY.

I MIGHT NOT
BE THE MOST
ELOQUENT, BUT
AT LEAST IT WAS
FROM THE **HEART**.
I WENT FOR
IT, RIGHT? I
MEAN...



BRUCE,
YOU'RE
BLEEDING!

...CARPE
DIEM?



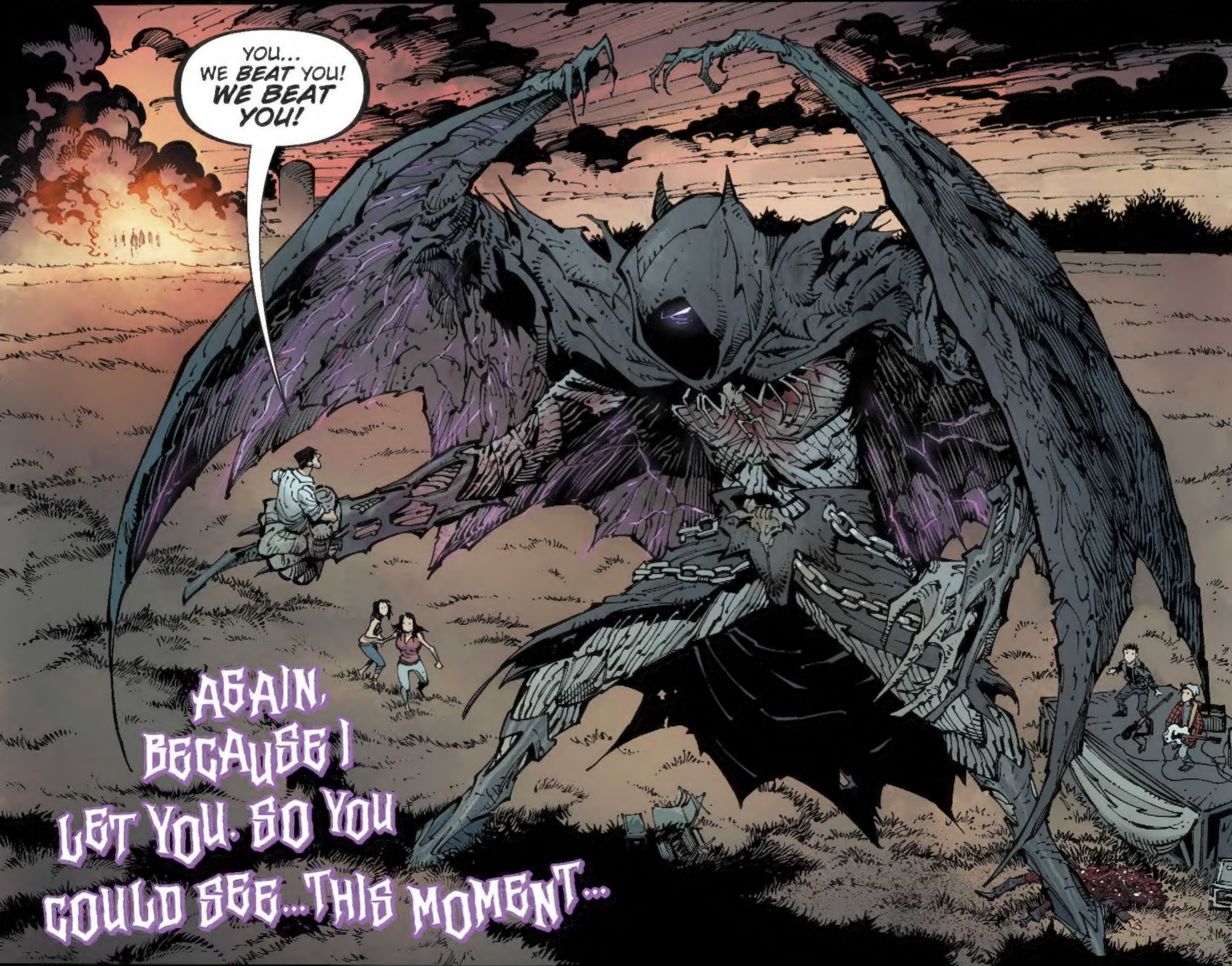


BRUCE!

NO!
NO, NOT
AGAIN!

FATHER!

GET
DOWN!



YOU...
WE BEAT YOU!
WE BEAT
YOU!

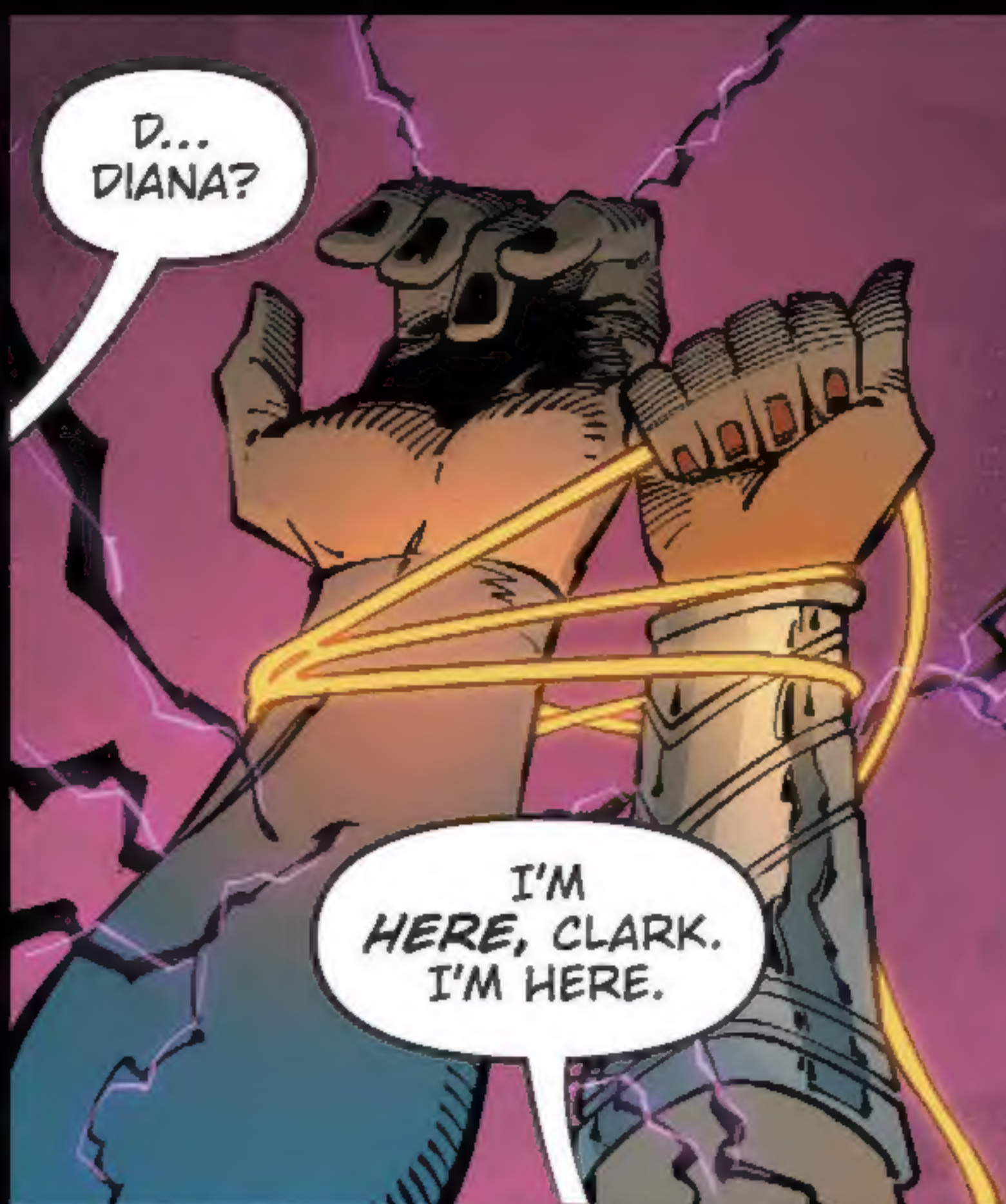
AGAIN,
BECAUSE I
LET YOU. SO YOU
COULD SEE... THIS MOMENT...





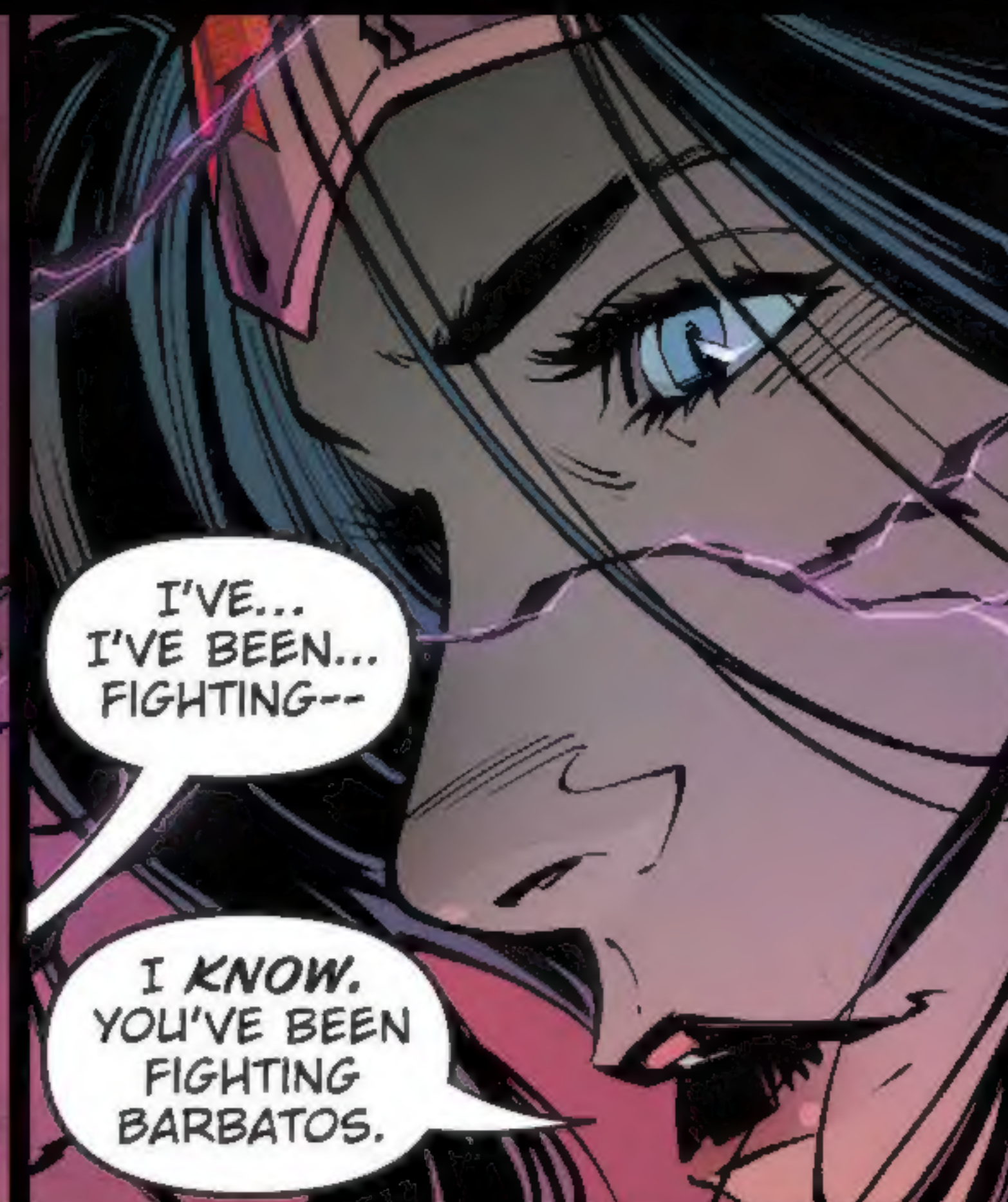
CLARK!
SUPERMAN,
WAKE UP!

UHH...



D...
DIANA?

I'M
HERE, CLARK.
I'M HERE.



I'VE...
I'VE BEEN...
FIGHTING--

I KNOW.
YOU'VE BEEN
FIGHTING
BARBATOS.



"BUT...OVER AND OVER, DIANA.
FOR MONTHS. YEARS. I'VE
LIVED WHOLE LIVES BATTLING
IT. LIKE BEING CAUGHT IN A
RECURRING DREAM, BUT REAL.



"I...I TRIED EVERYTHING.
I FOUGHT WITH VILLAINS...

"...WITH GODS.



I LOST
EVERY TIME.

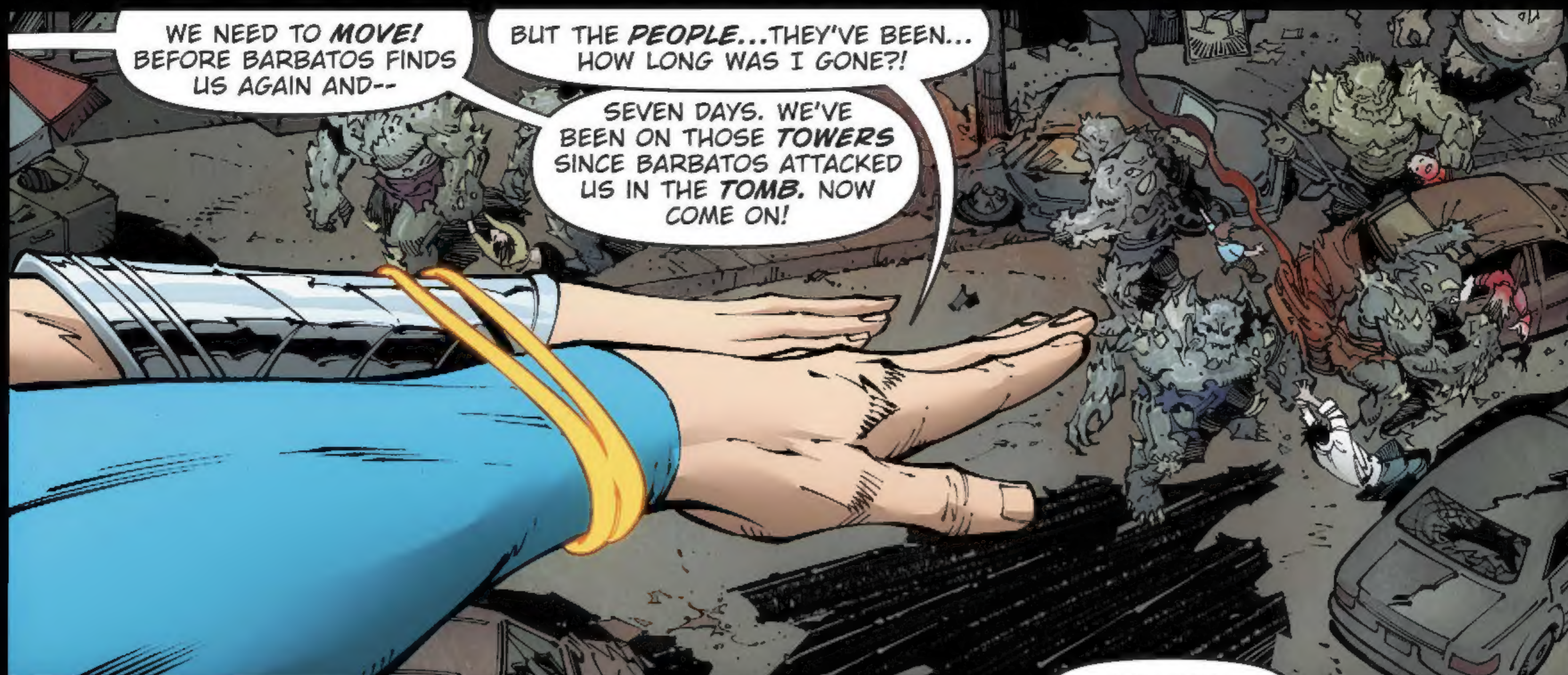


IT WAS THE
SAME FOR ME.
BUT HEAR ME NOW.
WHATEVER YOU
FACED...



METROPOLIS.
NOW.

...THIS IS
WORSE.



WE NEED TO **MOVE!**
BEFORE BARBATOS FINDS
US AGAIN AND--

BUT THE **PEOPLE...** THEY'VE BEEN...
HOW LONG WAS I GONE?!

SEVEN DAYS. WE'VE
BEEN ON THOSE **TOWERS**
SINCE BARBATOS ATTACKED
US IN THE **TOMB**. NOW
COME ON!



WAIT! JIMMY?!
I HAVE TO HELP
HIM, DIANA!

YOU'RE
TOO WEAK,
DAMMIT! I'M
TOO WEAK,
TOO!

SEVEN DAYS...
JON AND LOIS,
WHERE ARE
THEY?



JON IS SAFE.
LOIS...SHE WAS
INFECTED. I'M
SORRY, SHE'S ONE
OF THEM.
BUT--

WHERE IS
BARBATOS?

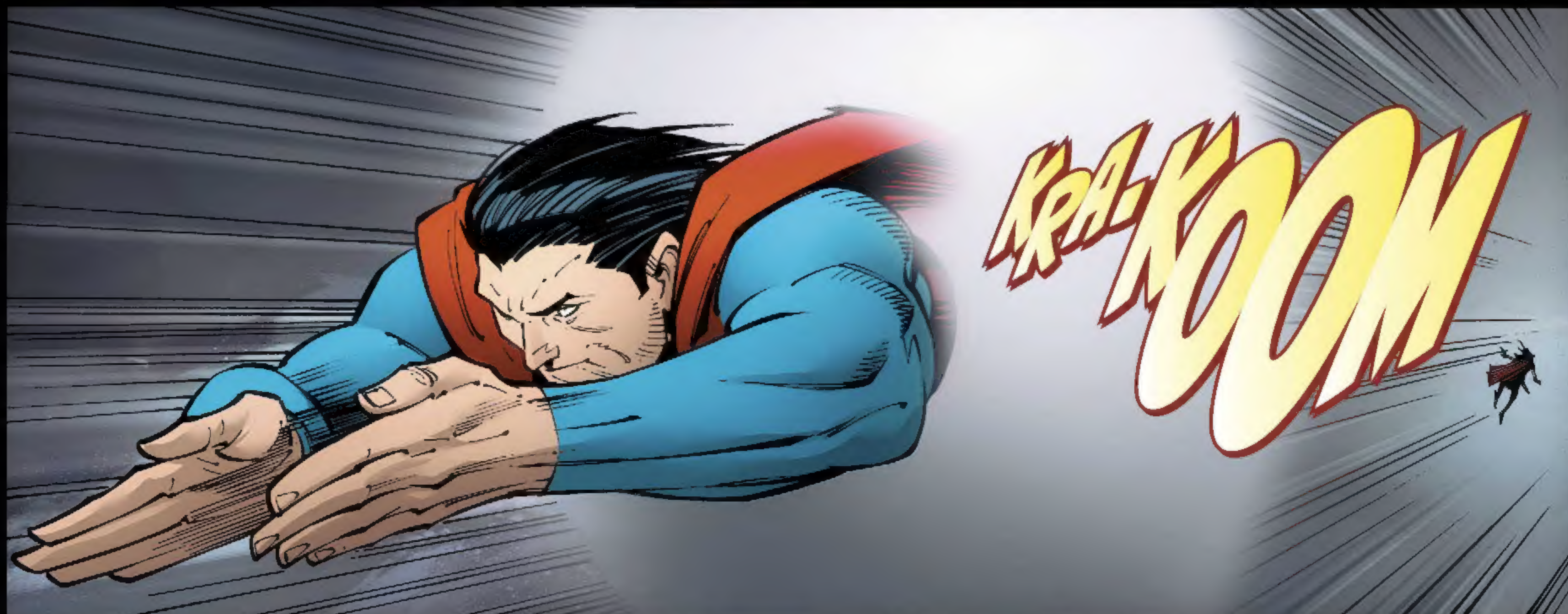
SUPERMA--



WHERE IS
BARBATOS?!

...

GOTHAM
CITY...BUT
YOU **DON'T**
UNDER-
STAND--



KRA-KOON





TO THE
DARK.

SUPERMAN?!
THANK GOD!

...

BATMAN?

YOUR
VITALS...
BRUCE, IT'S
REALLY
YOU!

YES! AND I
KNOW WHAT
NEEDS TO
HAPPEN!

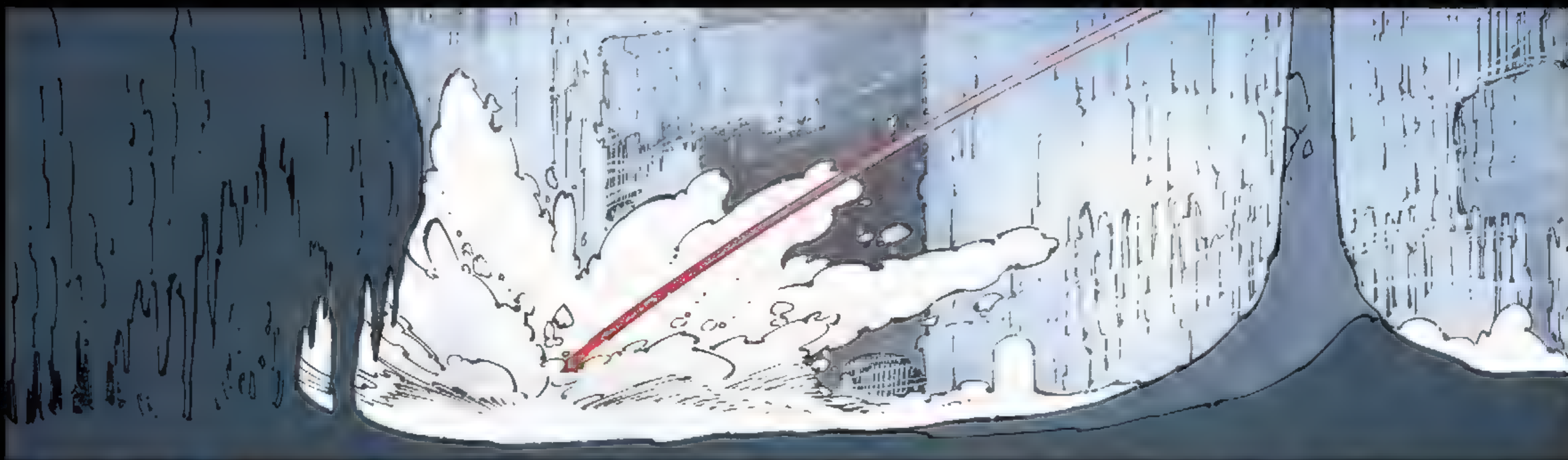


YOU DO?!
WHAT?

SAME THING AS
ALWAYS WITH YOU.
LESS TALKING...

...MORE
PUNCHING!

BAM



=UNH=...
...WHERE
THE...

GOTHAM
CITY,
BUDDY.



CRIME ALLEY,
TO BE SPECIFIC,
WHERE MY PARENTS
DIED.



I'M
OVER IT.

CROW...

CROWWW!

CROW-
CROW...



BRUCE...
THIS IS
YOUR CITY,
HOW
COULD--

IT WAS.
BUT I'M DONE
PROTECTING IT.
I'VE GIVEN THAT JOB
OVER TO MY FRIENDS
FROM ARKHAM. THIS
DISTRICT IS MR.
FREEZE'S MIND.
THE FROST
GIANTS.

LISTEN TO
ME...YOU'RE
BRUCE WAYNE.
EVERY CELL IN
YOUR BODY
SAYS SO.

THAT'S
VERY
TRUE.



FOR ALL
OF US.

ALL RIGHT
THEN. IF YOU'RE
ALL BRUCE...

...THAT
MEANS THERE
HAS TO BE SOME
GOOD IN YOU...

...SOMEWHERE.



HEEEEE...

CLARK,
THAT'S EXACTLY
WHAT YOU SAID
TO ME ON MY
WORLD...

...RIGHT
BEFORE I
KILLED YOU AND
YOUR WHOLE
FAMILY.

DEVASTATOR?



UNH!



SEE, DOWN IN OUR REALM, WORLDS
ARE CREATED BY ALL YOU
PEOPLE UP HERE.

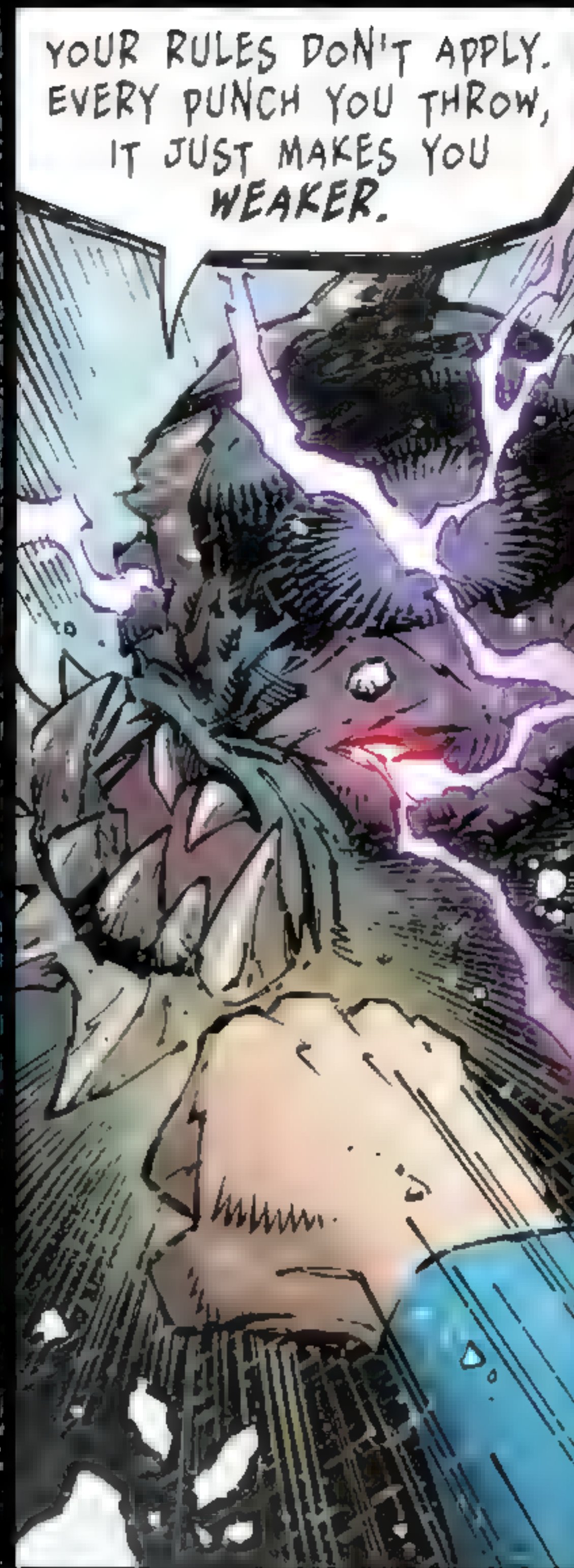
YOU FEAR OR HOPE FOR
SOMETHING, AND IT BIRTHS
A WORLD. THEY TELL US WE'RE
YOUR BRUCE'S GREAT FEARS
COME TO LIFE.

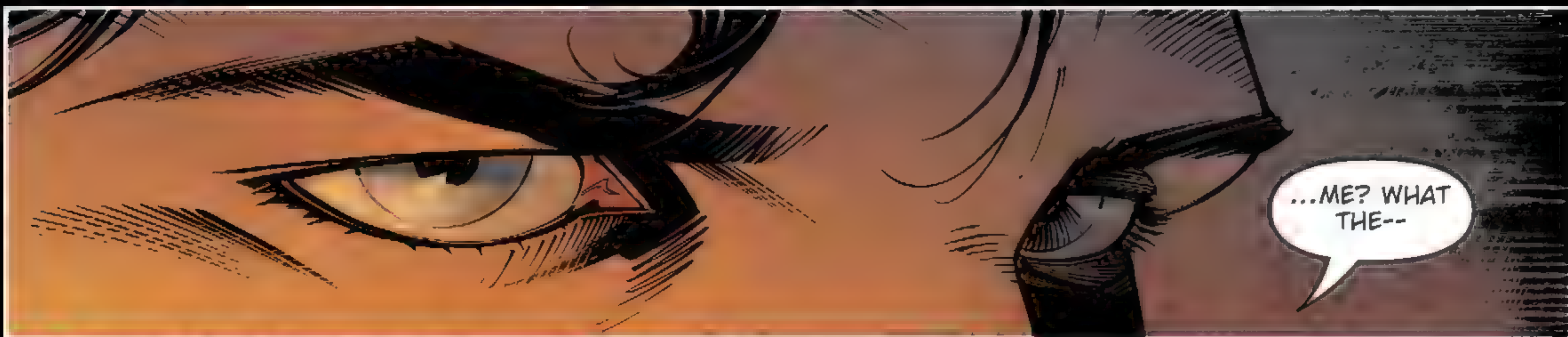
LIKE, SAY, OH, I DON'T
KNOW, ONE DAY YOU GET OUT
OF CONTROL AND HE EXPERIMENTS
WITH THE DOOMSDAY VIRUS TO
STOP YOU AND DESTROYS
THE PLANET?

THE THING IS, EACH OF US
HAS KILLED YOU--ALL OF YOU--
ON OUR WORLDS. WE CROSS
THE LINES HE'S SCARED TO.

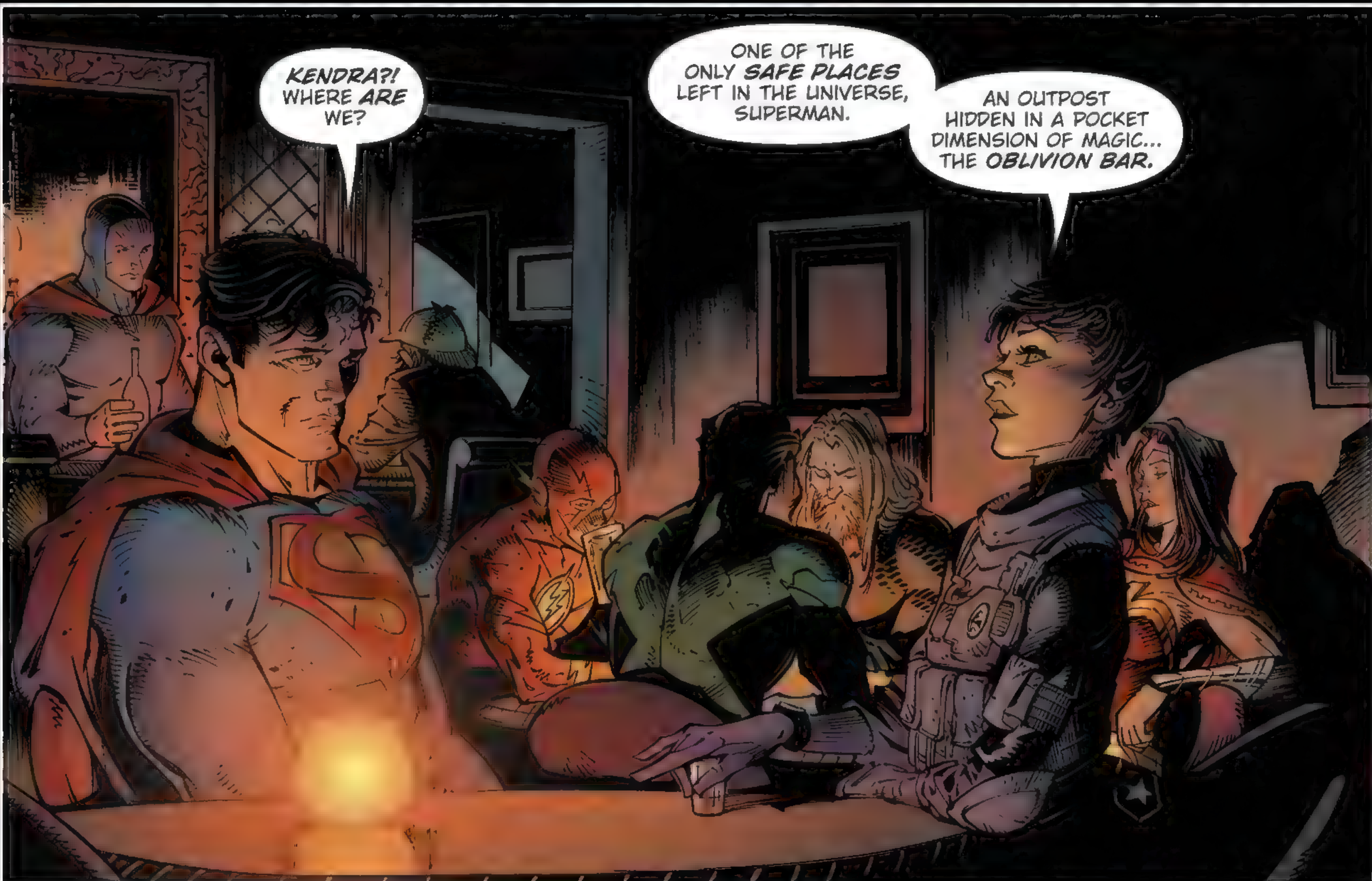
WHICH
ACTUALLY BEGS
THE QUESTIONS...
ARE WE REALLY
HIS FEARS? OR
ARE WE HIS
DESIRES?

FOOD FOR
THOUGHT





...ME? WHAT THE--



KENDRA?!
WHERE ARE WE?

ONE OF THE ONLY **SAFE PLACES** LEFT IN THE UNIVERSE, SUPERMAN.

AN OUTPOST HIDDEN IN A POCKET DIMENSION OF MAGIC... THE **OBLIVION BAR**.



WELCOME. I'M **NIGHTMASTER**, THE PROPRIETOR.

AND I'M HIS UNCLE BOBO.* HERE'S TO THE END OF THE WORLD, BOSS.

*BOBO'S NOT HIS UNCLE.
-EDDIE & TAY



DOCTOR FATE, STEEL AND MR. TERRIFIC USED THEIR CONNECTIONS TO **NTH METAL** TO CREATE A PORTAL HERE AND GATHERED US, AFTER WE BATTLED THOSE...**ABOMINATIONS**.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, AQUAMAN. I'VE ONLY BEEN GONE **DAYS**...BUT YOU LOOK BEATEN, ALL OF YOU. AND OUTSIDE, HOW THE **HELL** DID THIS HAPPEN?!

IT'S **SIMPLE**, SUPERMAN...

...WE LOST.

NIGHTWING?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE
BEEN--

THROUGH HELL? NO
KIDDING. WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING
WITHOUT SLEEP NONSTOP, DAY
IN AND DAY OUT.

A TEAM OF US
TRIED TO WIN BACK GOTHAM,
JUST GOTHAM...BUT BARBATOS
AND THE DARK KNIGHTS...THEY'RE
TOO POWERFUL.*



*FOR MORE ON JON SNOW
NIGHTWING READ GOTHAM
RESISTANCE, WINTER
CAME. -EDDIE & TAY

MORE CITIES WILL PROBABLY
FALL BY TONIGHT. EVERY PLACE
THE DARK KNIGHTS CONQUER,
THEY CREATE THOSE **TOWERS**
OF PEOPLE...**LIVING CONDUCTORS**
OF DARK ENERGY.

OF COURSE...
THEY'RE CREATING
A **CIRCUIT**...THEY'RE
GOING TO TRY TO SINK
THE WORLD INTO THE
DARK! WE NEED TO
FIGHT THEM!

FLASH TRIED
IN CENTRAL CITY.
GREEN LANTERN IN
COAST CITY. **CYBORG**
WENT DOWN ON THE
WATCHTOWER. WE
HAVEN'T HEARD FROM
HIM IN DAYS.

AND I...
I LOST
THE **TEEN**
TITANS...

...KIDS,
CLARK,
KIDS.



"THE ONE CALLED
MURDER MACHINE,
HE INFECTED DETROIT
WITH NANO-ALFREDS.

MAY
I HELP
YOU?

MAY
I HELP
YOU?



"THE ONE CALLED **RED DEATH**
CREATED A **SPEED FORCE STORM**
IN CENTRAL CITY THAT KILLS ANYONE
WHO TOUCHES IT IN SECONDS.



HEY, BOY SCOUT. YOU NEED TO ACCEPT THIS **A LOT FASTER**. BECAUSE EVERY MOMENT, THOSE TOWERS ARE GROWING. AND IF THEY SOMEHOW **ACTIVATE...**?

NOT TO MENTION WE LIKELY ONLY HAVE **MINUTES** BEFORE THE DARK KNIGHTS FIND US. THAT WAS THE COST OF GETTING YOU. A COST I WAS **AGAINST**.

SAY WHAT YOU WILL, BUT I'VE BEEN IN ENOUGH **WARS** TO KNOW WE NEED **EVERY** GOOD WARRIOR.

WONDER WOMAN, I WAS FIGHTING WARS BACK WHEN YOU WERE STILL A PILE OF **DIRT**.

NOW IF YOU'D LISTENED TO ME BACK AT BLACKHAWK ISLAND AND **GIVEN** ME BATMAN INSTEAD OF PROTECTING HIM, MAYBE WE'D HAVE A CHANCE.

BUT THESE THINGS ARE KILLING MACHINES AND NOW THERE'S **NOTHING** THAT WILL STOP **BARBATOS** OR THEM FROM--

THIS STOPS THEM.

NTH METAL. IT HURTS THEM. WE SAW IT IN GOTHAM.

GREEN ARROW IS RIGHT.

≡TT≡ SHAME YOU AND YOUR BIRD GOONS **DESTROYED** ALL OF THE STUFF, SAUNDERS.

NOT ALL OF IT, ROBIN.

I CAN SENSE THE LAST REPOSITORIES OF NTH METAL OUT THERE. **STEELS'S HAMMER**, MY **HELMET** AND THE **PLASTIC MAN EGG** THERE.

IT'S LIKE THE DARK ENERGY IS CREATING A LINK BETWEEN WHAT LITTLE **NTH METAL** IS LEFT AND **REACTIVE METALS** HERE ON EARTH.

FATE'S RIGHT. THE **EGG**... IT'S **VIBRATING**...BUT IN PATTERNS. I THINK...THEY'RE **COORDINATES**...?

HERE...IF I'M CORRECT, ONE LOCATION IS **DEEP SPACE**...ONE IS **BENEATH ATLANTIS**...AND ONE POINTS TO THE **CENTER OF THE MULTIVERSE**?

THE CENTER OF THE MULTIVERSE LIES AT THE **ROCK OF ETERNITY**.

ALL RIGHT THEN, IF **NTH METAL** IS WHAT WE NEED TO KILL THESE THINGS, THEN WE BREAK INTO **TEAMS**. ONE METAL-LINKED ALLY ON EACH SQUAD.

GREEN LANTERN, YOU AND MR. TERRIFIC TAKE THE **PLASTIC MAN EGG** TO THE LOCATION IN SPACE. ARTHUR, **ATLANTIS** IS--

THAT LOCATION IS **NOT**... ACCESSIBLE.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, NOT ACCESSIBLE?! THIS IS **WORLD-ENDING** STUFF. GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF THE **WATER**!

I JUST WATCHED MY FAMILY GET **SWALLOWED BY SHADOWS**!

AND ONE OF THOSE **THINGS** TOOK **MERA**. YOU STILL KNOW **NOTHING** OF THE SECRETS OF--

WAIT! THERE'S **ONE MORE** SET OF COORDINATES...

THEY'RE COMING THROUGH **MORE STRONGLY** THAN THE REST...THE LOCATION IS...BUT IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

WHERE IS IT?

IT'S... **NOWHERE**. THE COORDINATES ARE **NEGATIVE**. THEY POINT TO...

...DARKNESS.

THE DARK MULTIVERSE. I KNEW IT. IT'S **BATMAN**. HE'S THE KEY. WE NEED TO GO GET HIM!

LISTEN, I FOUGHT BARBATOS IN LIFE AFTER LIFE, AND IN THE LAST FEW... **BATMAN**...I COULD **FEEL** HIM **CALLING OUT** TO ME THROUGH THE DARK. THE FINAL TIME, IN SMALLVILLE, HE SAID SOMETHING THAT **DIDN'T TRACK**.

WAIT. YOU WANT TO GO INTO THE DARK MULTIVERSE BECAUSE OF SOMETHING **BATMAN** SAID IN A **DREAM**?! OPEN YOUR EYES! BARBATOS GIVES YOU HOPE JUST TO CRUSH YOU HARDER.

IT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO CARTER! IT'S **ALL A TRAP**! I PROMISE YOU. WITH BARBATOS, **ALL ROADS LEAD BACK TO--**

DON'T EVEN.

WHEN WE STARTED OUT, WONDER WOMAN, **BATMAN** AND I HAD A **CODE** FOR THE DIREST SITUATIONS. A PRIVATE S.O.S.

THE **CODE** WAS AN ALPHABETICAL **TRINITY**. HE SAID "**CARPE DIEM**," DIANA. THAT COULD MEAN--

I KNOW WHAT IT **COULD** MEAN. BUT WE HAVE REAL ASSETS TO GO AFTER HERE. THE DARK MULTIVERSE IS A TOTAL **UNKNOWN** AND--

I FELT IT, TOO.

I FELT HIM REACHING OUT. TRYING TO SAY **SOMETHING**.

AND WHAT DO YOU SAY, NIGHTWING? YOU KNOW HIM AS WELL AS ANYONE.

I SAY...

I SAY WE FIGHT **HERE**.

CRACK

YOU **BASTARD!**

I'M SORRY, ROBIN! I LOVE HIM, JUST LIKE I LOVE YOU. BUT I...

...I ALWAYS THOUGHT I WAS A BALANCE TO HIS DARKNESS...NOW **SEEING** HIS DEMONS IN THE FLESH, WHAT THEY **DID** TO US ON THEIR WORLDS... AND THE ONE WHO **LAUGHS**...

THEY'RE **NOT HIM**! THEY'RE HIS WORST FEARS! AND HE'S **TRAPPED** OUT THERE WITH THEM! **SUPERMAN'S** RIGHT! WE NEED TO GO GET MY FATHER!

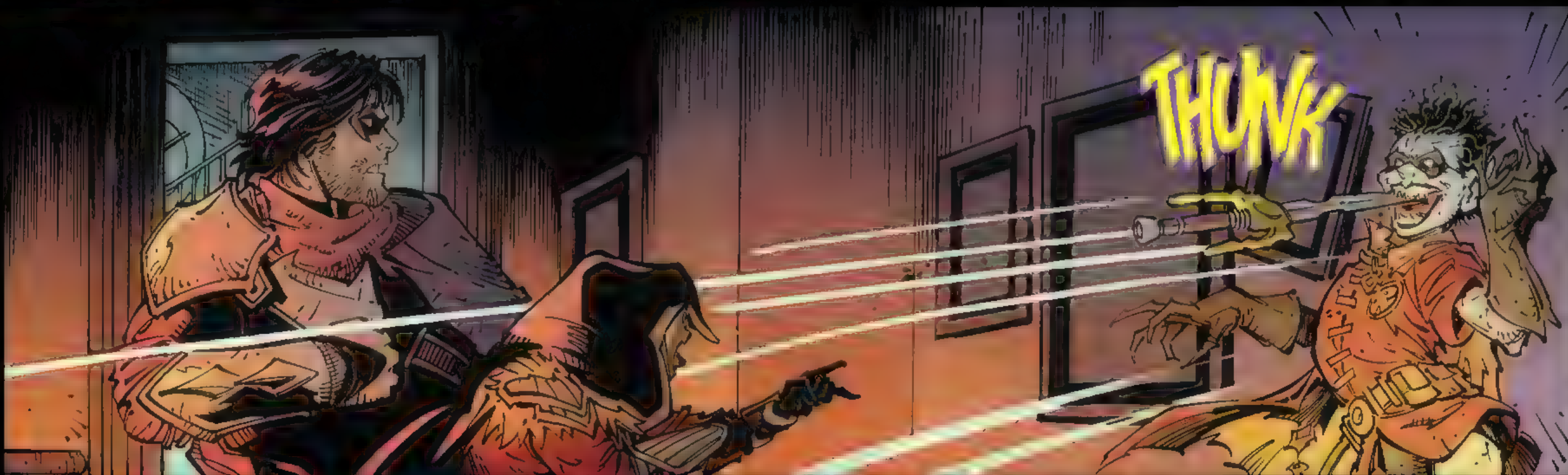
NO! WE DON'T. WE SAVE HIM BY DOING WHAT HE'D WANT US TO DO--FIGHT **HERE** AND NOW!



BESIDES, WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH ALLIES WITH METAL CONNECTIONS. WE HAVE **THREE**. DOCTOR FATE, STEEL AND PLASTIC EGG. WE'D NEED **FOUR**. LOOK AROUND, BECAUSE NO ONE IS MAGICALLY--



SCREEEE--



THUNK



HEY.

THIS JOB, IT'D PAY, RIGHT?

DEATHSTROKE?!

HE WAS THE LAST ONE THROUGH. HIS ARMOR, HIS SWORD. THEY'RE **PROMETHIUM**. HE HAS A CONNECTION. HE CAN--



AND THAT'S LAST CALL.



THEY'VE FOUND US! WHATEVER WE'RE DOING, WE NEED TO DO IT NOW!

PLEASE. I'M TELLING YOU, BATMAN CALLED TO ME. AND THE METALS THEY TREATED HIM WITH, HE COULD EVEN BE THE KEY TO THEIR PLAN. THE **POWER SOURCE** BARBATOS IS WAITING TO ACTIVATE WHEN THOSE TOWERS GET BIG ENOUGH.

LOOK, BARBATOS IS TRYING TO DRAG US INTO THE DARK. AND IT'S **WINNING**, DAMMIT. BUT IF ITS ESSENCE IS DARKNESS, THE FASTEST WAY TO BRING US DOWN IS TO STOP US FROM **HOPING...**

...FROM **VENTURING** INTO THE UNKNOWN, SEARCHING FOR THE LIGHT. OUR FRIEND MIGHT BE THAT LIGHT, AND HE NEEDS US.

NOW, I HAVE A WAY TO GET TO THE DARK MULTIVERSE, BUT I'LL NEED YOUR HELP, FLASH. YOU TOO, STEEL.

IRIS...EVERYONE I CARE ABOUT NEEDS ME RIGHT NOW, BUT I...I'LL HELP YOU FIRST.

ANY OBJECTIONS?

THEN GODSPEED. LET'S DO THIS.

THANK YOU, CLARK.

I'LL FIND HIM, IRIS.

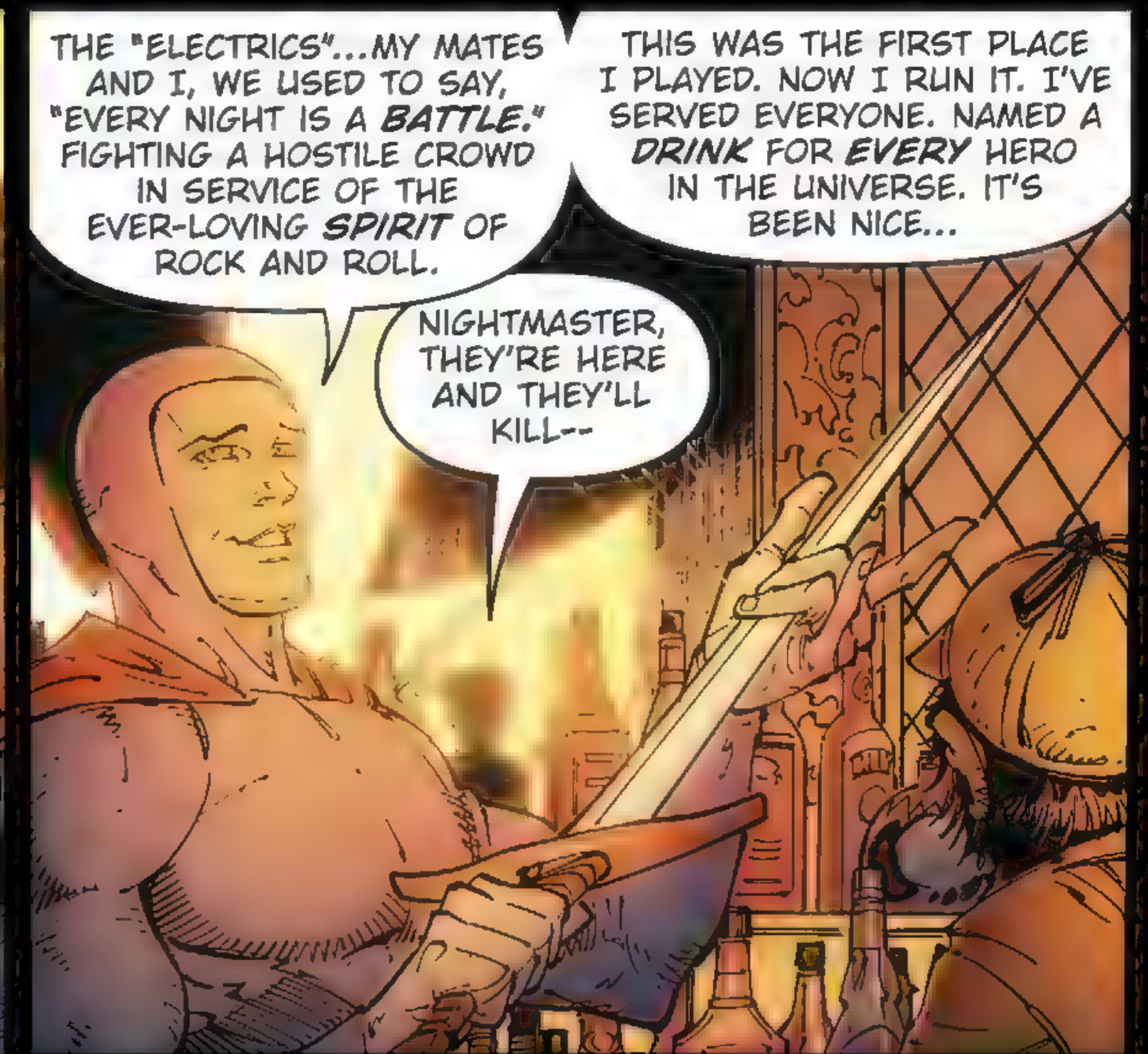
RRRRRRRRRRUUUUUMMMMMBBLLLLLEEEEEEE

THEY'RE UPON US! WE MUST TRY NOW! IF WE **FOCUS**, WE CAN CREATE PORTALS ALONG THE COORDINATES' PATHS!

I'LL HOLD IT STEADY.

DO IT NOW!



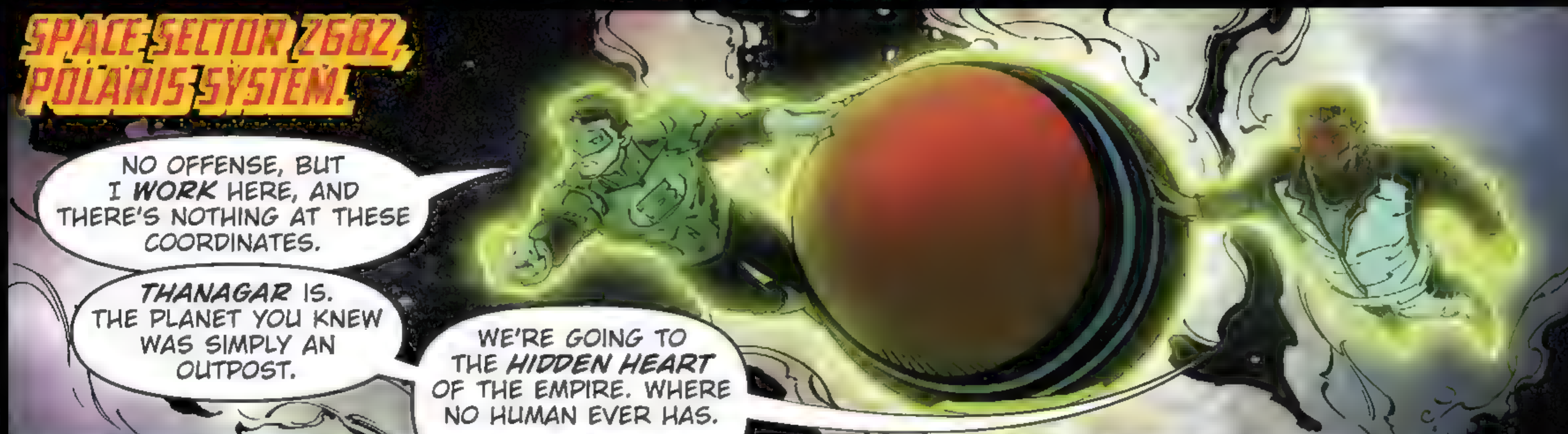


AW, WHERE'S EVERYONE GOING?
THE SANDS OF BIALYA.



THERE! THE
ENTRANCE TO THE
ROCK!

**SPACE SECTOR 2682,
POLARIS SYSTEM.**



NO OFFENSE, BUT
I *WORK* HERE, AND
THERE'S NOTHING AT THESE
COORDINATES.

THANAGAR IS.
THE PLANET YOU KNEW
WAS SIMPLY AN
OUTPOST.

WE'RE GOING TO
THE *HIDDEN HEART*
OF THE EMPIRE. WHERE
NO HUMAN EVER HAS.

MARIANA TRENCH.

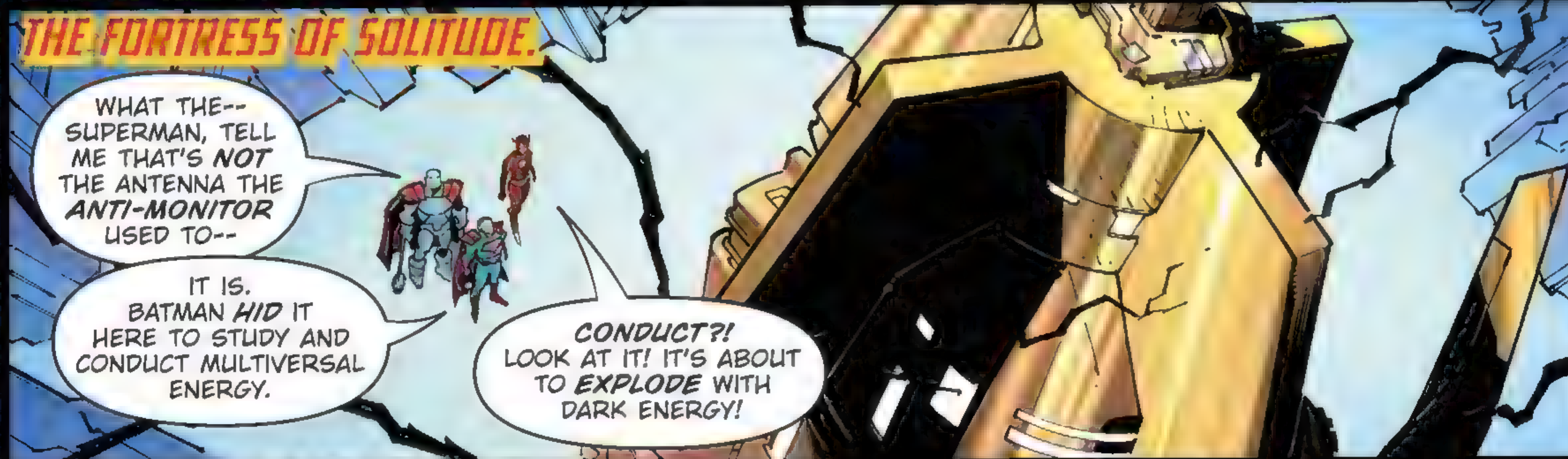


SO, MAN TO...
FISH-MAN...MERMAIDS,
HOW DO THEY
ACTUALLY--

I'M ABOUT TO
COMMIT A SIN THAT
WILL LIKELY *DESTROY*
ALL OF ATLANTIS.

SO SWIM WITH
YOUR MOUTH
SHUT.

THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE.



WHAT THE--
SUPERMAN, TELL
ME THAT'S *NOT*
THE ANTENNA THE
ANTI-MONITOR
USED TO--

IT IS.
BATMAN *HID* IT
HERE TO STUDY AND
CONDUCT MULTIVERSAL
ENERGY.

CONDUCT?!
LOOK AT IT! IT'S ABOUT
TO *EXPLODE* WITH
DARK ENERGY!

THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE, FLASH. I
REALIZED BACK AT THE OBLIVION BAR
THAT THE COORDINATES FOR THE
DARK MULTIVERSE ARE NOT FAR
FROM THE *PHANTOM ZONE*.
MEANING--

MEANING THE
PHANTOM ZONE MIGHT BE
A *PERMEABLE MEMBRANE*
BETWEEN OUR REALITY AND
THE DARK MULTIVERSE...
HUH.

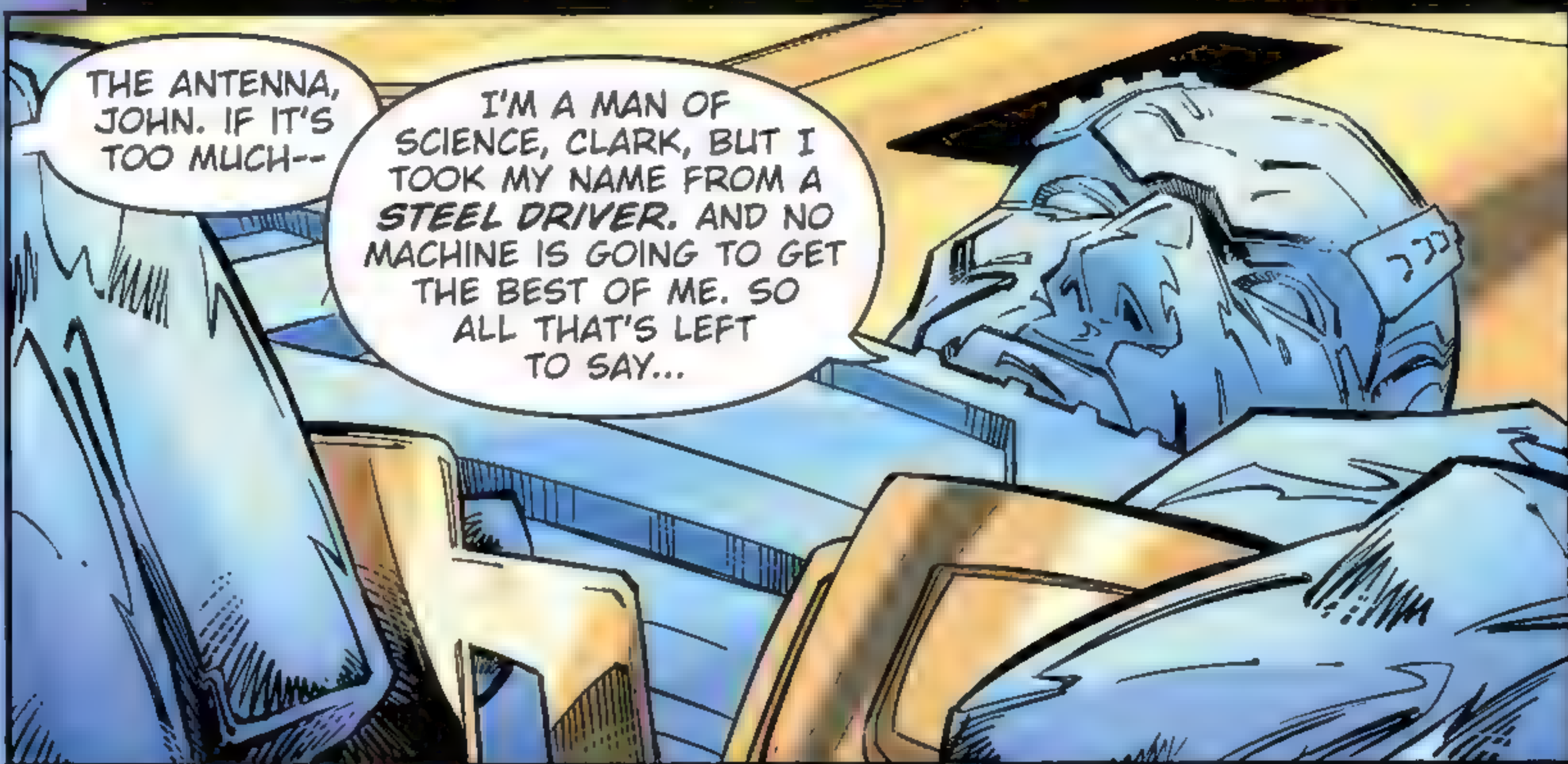
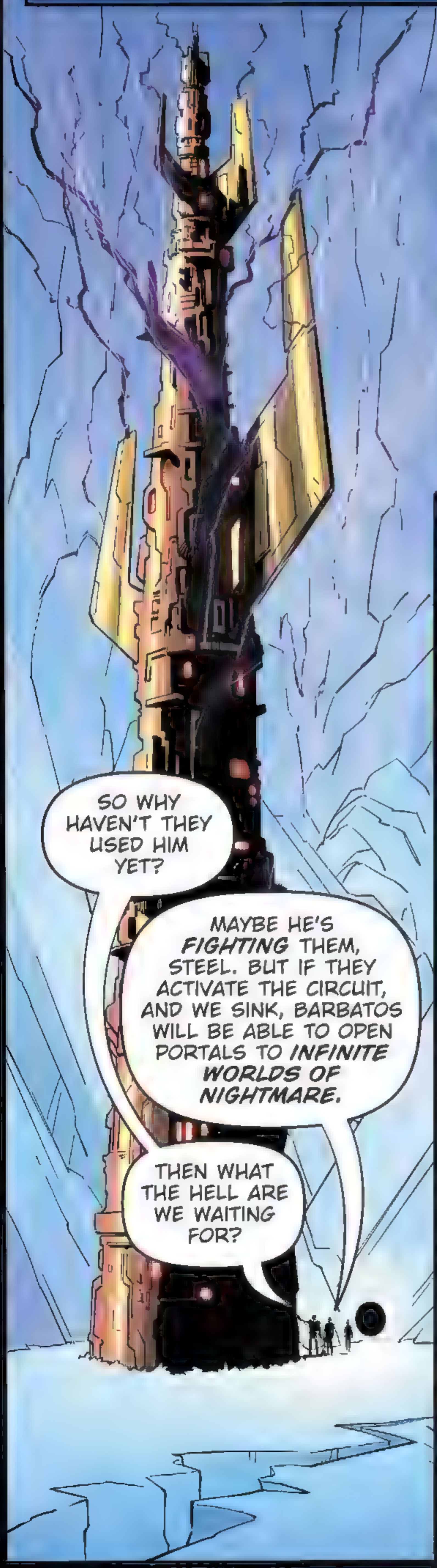




MAYBE. IF WE OPEN A PORTAL WITH THE **PHANTOM ZONE PROJECTOR** WHILE WE SUPER-CHARGE THE ANTENNA WITH THE SPEED FORCE, STEEL'S CONNECTION TO NTH METAL **MIGHT** CREATE AN ENERGY LINK TO THE DARK MULTIVERSE... AND **BATMAN** HIMSELF.

YOU REALLY THINK STEEL'S COMPASS IS POINTING TO BATMAN, THAT HE'S BECOME SOME PART OF THIS **BATTERY** THEY'RE GOING TO TURN ON?

THERE'S NOTHING **DARKER** THAN MAKING A **HERO** THE LEVER FOR **EVIL**.
YES, I DO.



THE ANTENNA, JOHN. IF IT'S TOO MUCH--

I'M A MAN OF SCIENCE, CLARK, BUT I TOOK MY NAME FROM A **STEEL DRIVER**. AND NO MACHINE IS GOING TO GET THE BEST OF ME. SO ALL THAT'S LEFT TO SAY...



"...IS READY... SET...GO!"

FAST AS YOU CAN, BARRY!

I'M GOING! BUT I NEED TO KNOW...WHAT WAS THE CODE THAT YOU AND DIANA AND BRUCE HAD?

SO WHY HAVEN'T THEY USED HIM YET?

MAYBE HE'S **FIGHTING** THEM, STEEL. BUT IF THEY ACTIVATE THE CIRCUIT, AND WE SINK, BARBATOS WILL BE ABLE TO OPEN PORTALS TO **INFINITE WORLDS OF NIGHTMARE**.

THEN WHAT THE HELL ARE WE WAITING FOR?



"IT WAS SIMPLE, BASED ON OUR NAMES. IF I WAS IN TROUBLE, I'D SEND A 'D.B.' FOR DIANA AND BRUCE."



"DIANA'S CALL WAS 'B.C.' FOR BRUCE AND CLARK. BRUCE'S WAS--"



"'C.D.' I GET IT, BUT... CARPE DIEM?"



"I FELT IT, BARRY. HE WAS CALLING FOR HELP."

ARRG! IT'S WORKING! DO IT NOW!



I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, CLARK...NOW GO!

RAHHH!



I'M COMING FOR YOU, BRUCE...



...TRAP?

AN... "S"?
OH GOD.
NO.

THE DARK MULTIVERSE





"...THE ONLY WAY TO COMMUNICATE ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE. VIBRATIONS. THE NOTES OF THE SONG...THE SONG OUR SONS PLAYED...STARTS D...THEN C...

NA NA NA NA NA

"THE REVERSE OF MY CODE.

"IT WAS A WARNING, CLARK! I WAS SAYING DON'T COME HERE!"



ONE FOR THE ELECTRICS...

...AND ONE LAST DRINK FOR YOU, CLARK. A "SUPERMAN." AN IMPORT OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY.

DOWN YOU GO.



NO! NO! IT CAN'T BE A TRAP! IT CAN'T BE!

IT'S WHAT THEY WANTED ALL ALONG...YOUR CELLS...YOU'RE THE REAL BATTERY, CLARK! THE CIRCUIT IS COMPLETE!

HE WAS RIGHT, DON'T YOU SEE? IN THE END...

...ALL ROADS LEAD TO BARBATOS...



...AND NOW THE WORLD WILL SINK...

...INTO DARKNESS...

FZZZZTTT



NEXT: Discover the Nightmare of the Dark Multiverse in **BATMAN: LOST!**
Then in Two months: The Road to Darkness Begins in **METAL #4!**